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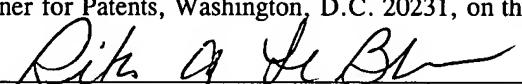
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dennis Cherok et al.  
Serial No.: 10/040,936  
Conf. No.: 3785  
Filed: January 7, 2002  
For: Implantable Prosthesis

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Art Unit: 3731

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 16 day of April, 2003.

  
Rita A. LeBlanc

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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**STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

**PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified case. No fee or certification is required.

**PART II: Information Cited**

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The Applicant hereby makes the following additional information of record in the above-identified application.

The Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention to the enclosed search report from corresponding International or Foreign National Application PCT/US 02/36906 dated February 14, 2003.

PART III: Explanation of Non-English Language References and Remarks Concerning Other Information Cited

The following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified):

Where English language translations of the non-English language references have been provided, the translation is believed to show the relevance of the reference. Where no English language translation is available, but an English language abstract has been provided, the English language abstract is believed to explain the relevance to the extent known by Applicants. Where no English language abstract is available, the drawings are believed to show the relevance.

The following are remarks concerning the other information cited.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cherok et al., Applicant*



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Date: *April 11, 2003*  
XNDDX